

## Early Learning

### Overview

Parents are a child's first and most influential teacher. As a parent, you have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to help your child navigate his or her first learning experiences. Recent research shows that children are born ready to learn. In fact, they develop 85 percent of their intellect, personality, and skills by age five.<sup>23</sup>

Early learning influences long term success.<sup>24</sup>



### Strategies

Many parents help their children learn to read, which helps children have a more successful school experience. For more information, order *Helping Your Child Learn to Read* by the U.S. Department of Education, at 1-800-USA-LEARN.<sup>25</sup>

- Start young. At just a few months, an infant can sit with you, look at pictures, and hear your voice. Point to and name familiar objects at home.
- Vary the tone of your voice, sing nursery rhymes, bounce your knee, and make funny faces. Use other special effects to stimulate your baby's interests.
- Allow your child to touch and hold sturdy cardboard books.
- When reading to your baby, be brief, but read as often as you can.
- When reading to your child, follow the words with your finger so that your child learns to follow from left to right.
- In early reading, the rhyme is a way for children to enjoy the repetition of the sound of language.

## Additional Information & Resources

1. Michigan Office of Great Start [http://michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530\\_6809---,00.html](http://michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6809---,00.html)
2. Reading Resources from US ED  
<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml>
3. PBS Parents – Early Learning  
<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml>